GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1830
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
FUNDS TO LOCAL BODIES
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central grants to local bodies in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands reach late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the procedure followed in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the grants reach the local bodies in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIVAR)

(a) (b) & (c): As per information provided by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, SGSY, IAY and SJSRY are the schemes being implemented at present by Rural and Urban Local Bodies in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. For these schemes, Central grants are channelized by the District Rural Development Agencies and District Urban Development Agencies of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration to the Local Bodies. The Ministries and Departments of the Central Government do not directly release grants to Local Bodies. Complaints have reached the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that there have been delays in Central grants reaching Local Bodies in the Union Territory of the A&N Islands. In consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, who supervises Administration of the Union Territory, these complaints are being looked into,

(d): Devolution of funds is a key component of empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions. In the Joint Statement of Conclusions signed by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of UT Administration in March 2007, it was resolved that the devolution of finances would be brought in line with the devolution of functions through the Activity Map and a Panchayat sector window opened in the UT budget. Under the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Panchayat) Regulation, 1994, a separate budget head has been opened in the sectors of Roads, Water Supply, Minor Irrigation, Education, Agriculture, Fisheries, Panchayats, Forestry etc. Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj has agreed to assist through guidelines the UT Administration in the modalities of maintaining a data base of Panchayat Bank Accounts and monitoring the transfer of funds from the State Treasuries to these accounts without delay or diversion.